

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 CU-04

DRC-01 /073 W

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R 061034Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 152

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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REFS: (A) STATE 217433

(B) PEKING 1331

(C) TAIPEI 6646

1. TO PUT MATTERS IN PERSPECTIVE, DECEMBER CONFERENCE ON MAINLAND AFFAIRS SPONSORED BY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IS THIRD IN SERIES, THE FIRST HAVING BEEN HELD HERE THREE YEARS AGO AND THE SECOND IN U.S. IN 1971. CONFERENCE IS NON-OFFICIAL AND ENTIRELY OPEN ASSEMBLY OF RECOGNIZED SCHOLARS. ACCORDING TO IIR, ACCEPTANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM NEARLY FIFTY REPUTABLE AND WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN SCHOLARS REPRESENTING QUITE A BROAD SPECTRUM OF OPINION FROM LEFT OF CENTER TO RIGHT. AMONG OTHERS WHOM THE SPONSORS REPORT AS HAVING ACCEPTED INVITATIONS ARE PARRIS CHANG (PENN STATE), RALPH CLOUGH (BROOKINGS), MEL GURTOV (UC-RIVERSIDE), JOHN MA (STANFORD), RICHARD MOORSTEEN (RAND), ETC., IN ADDITION TO THOSE WE HAVE MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY. WE NOTE THAT MANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE PREVIOUSLY VISITED PRC, AND DOUBTLESS MANY HOPE TO VISIT AGAIN. CONFERENCE HAS NOT BEEN USED AS FORUM FOR ANTI-PRC PROPAGANDA AND SCHOLARS SUCH AS THOSE LISTED WOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE SO USED.

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WM QUESTION OF OFFICIAL USG PARTICIPATION (REF B) DOES

NOT ARISE. NO OFFICIAL USG PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY SPONSORS AND NONE IS CONTEMPLATED. AMBASSADOR IS ALLOWING CERTAIN EMBASSY OFFICERS TO AUDIT PANEL SESSIONS AS UNLISTED OBSERVERS, FOR EXAMPLE PANEL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IIR INTENDS TO ASK HINTON TO CHAIR, AND PANEL ON POL/MIL/PARTY AFFAIRS WHICH IIR INTENDS TO ASK SCALAPINO TO CHAIR. TOTAL BOYCOTT OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BY US PARTICULARLY WHEN PANELS ARE CHAIRED BY DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN SCHOLARS, WOULD LOOK ODD, SEEMINGLY IMPLYING ANTI-INTELLECTUAL POSTURE AND LACK OF INTEREST IN SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO VITAL ISSUES IN CHINA AREA.

3. AMBASSADOR IS GIVING RECEPTION FOR VISITING AMERICAN SCHOLARS AND THEIR HOSTS. IN THIS CASE TOO, UNWILLINGNESS TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PRESENCE IN TAIPEI OF FIFTY DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN ACADEMICIANS WOULD HAVE APPEARED STRANGE INDEED, PARTICULARLY SINCE AMBASSADOR KNOWS MANY OF THEM AND HOSTED SIMILAR RECEPTION DURING FIRST IIR CONFERENCE IN 1970.
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